Celebrating Ruskin in 2019





The Guild of St George is proud to be working with the Bulldog Trust at Two Temple Place and with Museums Sheffield to present bicentenary exhibitions in London and Sheffield that centre on the Guild's Ruskin Collection.

The Guild of St George is the charity for arts, craft and the rural economy, founded by John Ruskin in 1871. Registered charity No. 231758 Limited Company No. 12583



London

John Ruskin: The Power Of Seeing 26 Jan – 22 April 2019

Two Temple Place, London Open every day except Tuesdays

This exhibition brings together more than 190 paintings, drawings, daguerreotypes, metal work, and plaster casts to illustrate how Ruskin's attitude to aesthetic beauty shaped his radical views on culture and society.

Visit www.twotempleplace.org for further information and for the programme of public events during the exhibition.

Supported by The Garfield Weston Foundation, the Foyle Foundation, the Sheffield Town Trust and the James Neill Trust Fund.



The Basilica of San Marco, Venice (1877–82) (detail) by Ruskin's protégé John Wharlton Bunney. Collection of the Guild of St George/Museums Sheffield.

Searching for Ruskin's utopia: a Guild of St George for the 21st century

9 April 2019, daytime Two Temple Place Booking opens early February

The Guild reflects on its current ground-breaking work in Sheffield and the Wyre, and invites three keynote speakers – activist and playwright Sarah Woods, writer and environmentalist Chris Baines and author and journalist Andrew Hill – to share their vision for the continued relevance of the three cornerstones of Ruskin's Guild: the place of the arts, the environment and economic justice.

Sheffield

John Ruskin: Art & Wonder 29 May – 15 September 2019 Millennium Gallery, Sheffield

This exhibition is rooted in Ruskin's fascination with the marvels of the natural world. Taking key themes explored in *The Power of Seeing* as its starting point, *Art & Wonder* will go on to explore how Ruskin championed the joy that nature can bring to our lives and the sense of awe it can evoke within us. Visitors will discover a breath-taking selection of botanical and ornithological studies alongside jewel-like geological specimens drawn from the Ruskin Collection.

Supported by the J.G. Graves Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Foyle Foundation, the Sheffield Town Trust and the James Neill Trust Fund.

Ruskin Collection, Sheffield

In addition, the permanent Ruskin Collection Gallery in Sheffield, which shows a changing selection from the collection, has two themed displays during 2019.

Until 1st September 2019

Ruskin's natural history collections continue to be among the most popular aspects of the Ruskin Collection. They have inspired new work by artists ranging from internationally recognised designers such as Timorous Beasties to local school children. Throughout the gallery, works made in association with the *Ruskin in Sheffield* programme, including metal artworks created by Park Centre community gardening group in Sheffield, are displayed alongside pictures and objects that inspired them. Other thematic displays are 'Stories in Stones', which reflects Ruskin's adoration of the 'filigree and embroidery' of France's medieval cathedrals and churches and the storytelling in their sculpture, and 'Mountain Gloom and Glory' which explores his call for artworks to follow his hero J.M.W. Turner in seeking 'truth to nature'.

- Free lunchtime talk led by the Park Centre gardening group Mon 11th March, 1pm–1.45pm.
- Free drop-in metalworking activities Weds 12th and 19th June, 11am-4pm.

From 14th September 2019 until late Spring 2020

Displays, including the recent generous gift of the archive relating to the sculptor Benjamin Creswick (1853–1946), will highlight the heritage of the collections, especially the legacy of Ruskin in Meersbrook and Walkley and *Ruskin in Sheffield's* recent collaborations to help enrich the future of these neighbourhoods.

The Ruskin in Sheffield Programme

In 2019 we're working with Guild Companions from Sheffield, around the UK, and Venice to create a programme of city centre events at the **Millennium Gallery; Sheffield Central Library; Theatre Deli**, Sheffield's experimental performance and art space; **Castlegate**, the medieval heart of Sheffield; and **Off The Shelf** literary festival. A walk up the hill to **Walkley** between 4 May and 7 July will be rewarded with displays of street-murals, comic-books and sculptures inspired by the Ruskin Collection and made by local teenagers.

Events 2019

Late Event: A Future Fantastic

31st May 7.30pm – 10.30pm Millennium Gallery

A night of Ruskin-fuelled performance, protest and utopiabuilding activities. Bask in the warmth of a better future. Over 18s only. Donations welcome, just turn up.

Encounters with Ruskin

April to June 2019 Sheffield Central Library

A season of events, talks and displays in Sheffield's Art Deco Central Library, including live performances of two of Ruskin's lectures, *A Joy Forever* and *Traffic*.



Ruskin Museums Makeover week at Meersbrook Hall, Sheffield 2018.

Making Masterpieces in Sheffield and Venice 18th October 2019 Big Draw Festival

A joint Guild of St George and Scuola Grande di San Rocco (Venice) celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of John Ruskin and 500th of the Venetian painter Jacopo Tintoretto. All are welcome to take part in a free day of drawing and creative activities at the former medieval Castle site in Sheffield, and at the Scuola in Venice. Activities at both sites will be live streamed and projected outdoors onto Exchange Place Studios in Castlegate, mixed with images of epic artworks by Tintoretto and treasures of the Ruskin Collection.

www.thebigdraw.org

The full programme of events in Sheffield is available in print and online from March 2019.

www.ruskininsheffield.com

Ruskin Land & Bewdley Wyre Forest

Beautiful, Peaceful, Fruitful: Ruskin in Wyre

2 March – 28 April 2019 An exhibition at Bewdley Museum, Bewdley, Worcestershire

This exhibition celebrates the Guild and HLF-supported Ruskin in Wyre project, mixing new art and craft work alongside historic items. Participants in the project have explored the heritage of Ruskin Land in the Wyre Forest, showing how Ruskin's vision for a place that is 'beautiful, peaceful and fruitful' can be reinterpreted and reinvigorated by communities in a practical and sustainable way for the future. The exhibition will feature work by John Ruskin himself and by John Wharlton Bunney, from the Ruskin Collection of the Guild of St George at Museums Sheffield.



Studio in the Woods at Ruskin Land. Photograph by Jim Stephenson www.cliclclickjim.com

Next Steps with Ruskin

16th March 2019, times tbc, Bewdley, Worcestershire A day of talks, discussion and activities, open to all. Free of charge (option of paid-for lunch).

Book a place via **communications@** guildofstgeorge.org.uk

The day begins with a brief introduction to Ruskin, explaining who he was and his historical influence. Then, facilitated by Guild Directors and Companions, we consider Ruskin's relevance today, in his bicentenary year.

The day closes with a private view of the exhibition **Beautiful**, **peaceful**, **fruitful: Ruskin in Wyre** at the Bewdley Museum. For those who can stay, there will be a tour of Ruskin Land in the Wyre Forest the following day.

There will be other participatory events on Ruskin Land during 2019; full details at

www.guildofstgeorge.org.uk

Manchester

Ruskin gave some of his most important lectures in Manchester and the people of Manchester responded positively to him, changing lives. Some of the city's most influential people were inspired by his teaching and Mancunians formed the first Ruskin Society and the first exhibition dedicated to him (1904). A number of the city's institutions are collaborating to present events and displays to mark his bicentenary.

Events 2019

'Ruskin's Manchester: from 'Devil's Dark to Beacon City'

29 April – 23 August 2019 An exhibition at Manchester Metropolitan University's Special Collections.

The John Ruskin Prize exhibition – Agent of Change

12 July – 13 September 2019 Holden Gallery, Manchester Open Weds – Sat 12–6, with late openings Thursdays until 7pm

The John Ruskin Prize, inaugurated in 2012 by The Guild of St. George and The Big Draw, is the fastest growing multi-disciplinary art prize in the UK. Organised and delivered by The Big Draw, The Prize aims to uphold John Ruskin's beliefs whilst supporting emerging artists, designers and makers whose work demonstrates a contemporary affinity with Ruskin's work and legacy.

Now in its 5th year, The John Ruskin Prize 2019 is open to artists, makers, designers, architects and creative practitioners currently resident in the UK, and aims to uphold Ruskin's beliefs whilst challenging the nation's artists to consider their role as catalysts of change, critics, material innovators and polymaths.

For further information please visit our website **www.ruskinprize.co.uk**

There will be numerous exhibitions and events in Manchester throughout the year, with a *Festival of Ruskin in Manchester* supported by the Guild and Manchester Metropolitan, as well as many of the city's cultural institutions. Programme available March 2019. More information at **www.guildofstgeorge.org.uk**

For more bicentenary information, go to **www.ruskin200.com**



Front cover images: Left: John Ruskin in 1863.

Top Right: The Big Draw, Ruskin Land, 2018. Bottom Right: Thomas Matthew Rooke Avalon from the Valley 1886. Collection of the Guild of St George/Museums Sheffield.

All event details correct at time of going to press. The Guild reserves the right to change the date, time, nature and content of events due to circumstances beyond our control.